

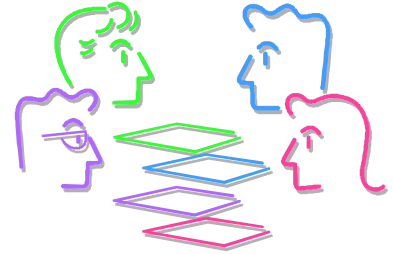
## **Coalition Building for Youth Firesetting Intervention Programs.**

### **What is a coalition?**

A coalition is an alliance of individuals and/or organizations working together to achieve a common purpose.

### **Why are they important?**

- Addresses a community based problem.
- Builds support at every level
- Increases overall awareness
- Utilizes the members collective resources and expertise
- Spreads out the work load
- Broadens funding opportunities and needed resources
- Increases the overall success and effectiveness of the program



### **Successful strategies for building your coalition!**

- Define and document the needs of the program
- Determine who/what (individuals/agencies) can help meet the program needs
- Who in the community is doing similar work with the target audience?
  - Learn about their processes, abilities and limitations
  - How can the Youth Firesetting program work with them?
  - What are the benefits to them for participating?
- Determine which agency or individual will take a leadership position in the coalition.
- Establish a good means of communication with every coalition member.
- Develop a mission statement that explains what the coalition stands for, why it exists and how it plans to address the issue of youth firesetting.
- Define a process, or operating principals that will work for every member of the coalition and assist in completing tasks.
- Schedule regular & timely meetings
  - Maintain a good working agenda.
  - Value every team member's time (start and end on time).
  - Recognize achievements and successes no matter how big or small
  - Establish achievable goals.
  - Encourage new ideas from every member.
  - Assign tasks and action plans with established deadlines
- Develop strategies for maintaining momentum